

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT:WALL STREET JOURNAL EDITORIAL, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

WALL STREET JOURNAL, MARCH 12: SENATORIAL IMPERIALISM

SO MIKE MANSFIELD AND HUGH SCOTT HAVE DECIDED THAT LON NOL IS NOT THE RIGHT MAN TO HEAD THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA, AND THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND PRESUMABLY THE CIA SHOULD USE, IN THE REPUBLICAN LEADER'S WORDS, "AS MUCH PRESSURE AS NECESSARY" TO SECURE HIS REMOVAL. THESE DEMANDS THAT CAMBODIA CHANGE ITS GOVERNMENT ARE INTENDED, WE PRESUME, TO REQUITE THE SINS OF "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM."

NOW, ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, THE SENATORS' SUGGESTION MAKES A GOOD DEAL OF SENSE. LON NOL AND HIS ASSOCIATES WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO RESIGN WHILE THERE IS STILL AIR SERVICE BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND THE RIVIERA, LEAVING TO THE FACELESS INSURGENTS SUCH PROBLEMS AS FEEDING THE REFUGEES. YES-
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TERDAY THERE WERE IN FACT REPORTS ON AN APPARENTLY

INDIGENOUS SHAKE-UP IN THE CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT, BUT EVEN IF LON NOL HIMSELF LEAVES, SO FAR IT SEEMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL STILL PREFER TO HANG ON SO LONG AS IT SEES ANY

CHANCE OF AVOIDING A NORTH VIETNAMESE FUTURE FOR ITS TINY COUNTRY. A FOOLISH COURSE, PERHAPS, BUT SCARCELY A DISHONORABLE ONE.

IN THESE UNHAPPY CIRCUMSTANCES, IT SEEMS TO US THE SENSIBLE COURSE FOR THE U.S. TO MAKE CLEAR IT WILL NOT FIGHT CAMBODIA'S BATTLE FOR IT, BUT TO SUPPLY IT WITH ENOUGH ARMS TO OFFSET THE EXTERNAL SUPPORT BEING GIVEN THE INSURGENTS. THE U.S. SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT CAMBODIA'S FALL AS NOT CRUCIAL TO U.S. SECURITY, BUT IT IS NOT UP TO THE U.S. TO SECOND-GUESS CAMBODIA'S DECISION TO FIGHT ON RATHER THAN SURRENDER.

LEAST OF ALL IS IT UP TO THE U.S. TO DECIDE WHEN CAMBODIA SHOULD CHANGE RULERS. OUR LAST ADVENTURE IN HELPING TO OVERTHROW AN ALLY, THE 1963 COUP AGAINST NGO DINH DIEM, WAS THE WORST SINGLE MISTAKE OF POSTWAR FOREIGN POLICY. IT WAS THIS ACT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE THAT BOGGED DOWN THE U.S. IN VIETNAM.

WHY IS IT THAT CALLS LIKE THOSE SENATORS MANSFIELD AND SCOTT ARE NOW ISSUING ALWAYS FOCUS ON OUR ALLIES? WOULD THE SENATORS FAVOR A U.S. POLICY OF TRYING TO SECURE A NEW GOVERNMENT IN THE SOVIET UNION, OR NORTH VIETNAM? WOULD SENATOR SCOTT HAVE FAVORED USING AS MUCH PRESSURE AS NECESSARY" TO SECURE THE REMOVAL OF SALVADOR ALLENDE AS PRESIDENT OF CHILE? OR -- TO TAKE TWO STATES WHERE THE PRESENT GOVERNMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED OR MAINTAINED WITH HEAVY AMERICAN ASSISTANCE -- HOW ABOUT TRYING FOR NEW RULERS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAN? NO DOUBT THE SENATE WOULD BE AGHAST AT SUCH SUGGESTIONS, BUT TO FRIENDLY GOVERNMENTS IT APPLIES A DIFFERENT STANDARD.

TODAY'S CRIES TO REMOVE LON NOL ECHO CRIES IN LATE

1968 TO REMOVE NGUYEN VAN THIEU. BACK THEN THE ESSENTIAL UNCLASSIFIED

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POINT WAS NEATLY SUMMED UP BY A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR NAMED HENRY KISSINGER: "IF THIEU MEETS THE SAME FATE AS DIEM, THE WORD WILL GO OUT TO THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD THAT IT MAY BE DANGEROUS TO BE AMERICA'S ENEMY, BUT TO BE AMERICA'S FRIEND IS FATAL."

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